

## **SMART GROWTH FOR SCHOOLS.**

### **(1) Support a stellar high school by promoting manageable student enrollment and uncrowded conditions.**

The County Council should approve a White Flint sector plan that supports an excellent learning environment at Walter Johnson HS - a nationally prominent school - by promoting a manageable student enrollment and an uncrowded facility. The Council should assure these results by approving a plan that yields high school students in numbers the school can serve well.

To adopt a plan that yields a suitably-sized high school population, the Council should ensure that (A) the number of high school students from the additional White Flint development, added to (B) the projected student enrollment for Walter Johnson HS (2100) and the number of high school students from other projected development (31), would maintain the high school's enrollment at fewer than 2400 students. Beyond that number of students, Walter Johnson HS would begin to exceed its modernized and expanded capacity.

In addition, the plan should not make an elementary school siting suggestion that, if implemented, would cause redistricting that could add numerous students to Walter Johnson HS (or could redistrict students from current neighborhoods in the cluster into another cluster's schools). The plan should reinforce the school's many strengths, not dilute them.

### **(2) Promote high-quality elementary schools by reserving land or acquiring resources.**

The County Council should approve a plan in which land is reserved for an elementary school site in the sector. This is an essential element of the plan, to preserve uncrowded, appropriately sized elementary schools that provide high-quality education to young students. The land should be provided through dedication, or acquisition by the county (preferably acquisition through developer contributions).

If the Council is unable to approve a plan that reserves that land, due to other essential elements of the plan, the Council should approve a plan that facilitates reopening a former school in the Walter Johnson cluster. The plan should give Montgomery County Public Schools ownership of (or resources to acquire) a facility into which the school system could transfer offices or special programs currently located in a former school. The facility should be provided through

dedication, or acquisition by the county (preferably acquisition through developer contributions).

**(3) Recognize committed parents and communities by keeping Walter Johnson cluster intact.**

The County Council should approve a plan that enables the school system to permit communities in the Walter Johnson cluster to keep their students in the cluster. Residents of these communities have made huge commitments to their schools and neighborhoods, giving many thousands of hours of volunteer service, providing significant funding of school and neighborhood activities through donations, and making financial sacrifices to place their children in Walter Johnson cluster schools. The plan should allow the cluster, with its high parental and neighborhood involvement, to remain intact.

The Council should adopt a plan that permits Montgomery County Public Schools to maintain the boundaries of the cluster. The plan should not (by recommending the use of a school outside the cluster) encourage the public schools to redraw those boundaries.